

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A card connector for holding either of first and second cards in a connector housing so that contact pads of the card engage contact terminals arranged in a base plate of the connector housing, the card connector characterized by:

being configured to hold a first card having an upper body portion, a lower body portion formed slightly narrower than the upper body portion and having recessed portions on a bottom surface in a front side area thereof, contact pads provided in said recessed portions, and stepped portions formed along both side edges of the card by a bottom surface of said upper body portion and a bottom surface of said lower body portion,

being configured to hold a second card having a card body portion having almost a same thickness size as the upper body portion of the first card, and contact pads arranged on a bottom surface of the card body portion at almost a same horizontal position as the contact pads of the first card,

having a pair of guide grooves formed in both side walls of the connector housing to support the side edges of the upper body portion of the first card and side edges of the card body portion of the second card and thereby guide the first or second card as the first or second card is inserted or extracted;

having side walls to define, below a space between the pair of guide grooves, a space in which to ~~accommodate the lower body portion of the first card~~ the lower body portion of the first card can be accommodated; and

having a base plate and a plurality of contact terminals arranged in said base plate adapted to electrically couple with the contacts formed on the bottom surface of said first and second cards.

2. (Previously Submitted) A card connector according to claim 1, wherein said side walls are formed at such locations that said side walls can guide the side surfaces of the lower body portion of the first card.

3. (Previously Submitted) A card connector according to claim 1, further comprising:

an eject mechanism to eject the card; and

an elastic braking piece arranged at such a position that the elastic braking piece engages the bottom surface of the upper body portion of the first card when the first card is inserted and engages the bottom surface of the card body portion of the second card when the second card is inserted, the braking piece applying a braking force to the first or second card when the first or second card is ejected.

4. (Original) A card connector according to claim 3, wherein said elastic braking piece is secured to a position which is in a far part of said guide groove and which is a predetermined distance lower than a lower wall of said guide groove.

5. (Original) A card connector according to claim 1, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said guide grooves is formed with an opening having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of said first card.

6. (Previously Submitted) A card connector according to claim 1, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said guide grooves is formed with a recess having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of said first card and which extends into the underside of the top plate.

7. (Previously Submitted) A card connector according to claim 1, further comprising:

an elastic braking piece arranged at such a position that the elastic braking piece engages the bottom surface of the upper body portion of said first card when said first card is inserted and engages the bottom surface of the card body portion of said second card when said second card is inserted, the braking piece applying a braking force to said first or second card in a card extraction direction.

8. (Original) A card connector according to claim 7, wherein said elastic braking piece is secured to a position which is in a far part of said guide groove and which is a predetermined distance lower than a lower wall of said guide groove.

9. (Original) A card connector according to claim 7, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of the guide grooves is formed with an opening having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of the first card.

10. (Original) A card connector according to claim 7, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said guide grooves is formed with a recess having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of said first card and receding in the height direction.

11. (Currently Amended) A card connector for holding either of first and second cards in a connector housing so that contact pads of the card engage contact terminals arranged in a base plate of the connector housing, the card connector housing characterized by:

being configured to hold a first card having an upper body portion, a lower body portion formed slightly narrower than the upper body portion and having recessed portions in a front side area thereof, contact pads provided in said recessed portions,

and stepped portions formed along both side edges of the card by a bottom surface of said upper body portion and a bottom surface of said lower body portion,

being configured to hold a second card having a card body portion having almost ~~the same horizontal shape and thickness~~ a same size as the upper body portion of the first card, and contact pads arranged on a bottom surface of the card body portion at almost the same horizontal positions as the contact pads of the first card,

having a pair of guide grooves formed in both side walls of the connector housing to support the side edges of the upper body portion of the first card and the side edges of the card body portion of the second card and thereby guide the first or second card as it is inserted or extracted;

having side walls to define, below a space between the pair of the guide grooves, a space in which ~~to accommodate the lower body portion of the first card~~ the lower body portion of the first card can be accommodated,

having an elastic braking piece arranged at such a position that the elastic braking piece engages the bottom surface of the upper body portion of the first card when the first card is inserted and engages the bottom surface of the card body portion of the second card when the second card is inserted,

wherein a displacement of the elastic braking piece remains about the same, when the first or second card is inserted.

12. (Previously Submitted) A card connector according to claim 11, wherein said side walls are formed at such locations that said side walls can guide the side surfaces of the lower body portion of the first card.

13. (Previously Submitted) A card connector according to claim 11, further comprising an eject mechanism to eject the card.

14. (Previously Submitted) A card connector according to claim 11, wherein said elastic braking piece is secured to a position which is in a far part of said guide groove and which is a predetermined distance lower than a lower wall of said guide groove.

15. (Previously Submitted) A card connector according to claim 11, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said guide grooves is formed with an opening having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of said first card.

16. (Previously Submitted) A card connector according to claim 11, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said guide grooves is formed with a recess having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of said first card and receding in the height direction.

17. (Previously Submitted) A card connector according to claim 11, wherein the elastic braking piece applying a braking force to said first or second card in a card extraction direction.

18. (Previously Submitted) A card connector according to claim 17, wherein said elastic braking piece is secured to a position which is in a far part of said guide groove and which is a predetermined distance lower than a lower wall of said guide groove.

19. (Previously Submitted) A card connector according to claim 17, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of the guide grooves is formed with an opening having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of the first card.

20. (Previously Submitted) A card connector according to claim 17, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said guide grooves is formed with a recess having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of said first card and receding in the height direction.

21. (New) A card connector for holding either of first and second cards in a connector housing so that contact pads of the card engage contact terminals arranged in a base plate of the connector housing, the card connector characterized by:

a first space being configured to have fully inserted a first card, said first card having an upper body portion, a lower body portion formed slightly narrower than the upper body portion, and having recessed portions on a bottom surface in a front side area thereof, contact pads provided in said recessed portions, and stepped portions formed along both side edges of the card by a bottom surface of said upper body portion and a bottom surface of said lower body portion,

wherein said first space is unobstructed across the width of said lower body portion of the entire length of said first space,

a second space being configured to fully insert a second card, said second card having a card body portion having almost a same thickness as the upper body portion of the first card, and contact pads arranged on a bottom surface of the card body portion at almost a same horizontal position as the contact pads of the first card,

having a pair of guide grooves formed in both side walls of the connector housing to support the side edges of the upper body portion of the first card and side edges of the card body portion of the second card and thereby guide the first or second card as the first or second card is inserted or extracted;

having side walls to define, below a space between the pair of guide grooves, a space in which to accommodate the lower body portion of the first card; and

having a base plate and a plurality of contact terminals arranged in said base plate adapted to electrically couple with the contacts formed on the bottom surface of said first and second cards.

22. (New) A card connector according to claim 21, wherein said side walls are formed at such locations that said side walls can guide the side surfaces of the lower body portion of the first card.

23. (New) A card connector according to claim 21, further comprising:

an eject mechanism to eject the card; and

an elastic braking piece arranged at such a position that the elastic braking piece engages the bottom surface of the upper body portion of the first card when the first card is inserted and engages the bottom surface of the card body portion of the second card when the second card is inserted, the braking piece applying a braking force to the first or second card when the first or second card is ejected.

24. (New) A card connector according to claim 23, wherein said elastic braking piece is secured to a position which is in a far part of said guide groove and which is a predetermined distance lower than a lower wall of said guide groove.

25. (New) A card connector according to claim 21, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said guide grooves is formed with an opening having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of said first card.

26. (New) A card connector according to claim 21, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said guide grooves is formed with a recess having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of said first card and which extends into the underside of the top plate.

27. (New) A card connector according to claim 21, further comprising:

an elastic braking piece arranged at such a position that the elastic braking piece engages the bottom surface of the upper body portion of said first card when said first card is inserted and engages the bottom surface of the card body portion of said second card when said second card is inserted, the braking piece applying a braking force to said first or second card in a card extraction direction.

28. (New) A card connector according to claim 27, wherein said elastic braking piece is secured to a position which is in a far part of said guide groove and which is a predetermined distance lower than a lower wall of said guide groove.

29. (New) A card connector according to claim 27, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of the guide grooves is formed with an opening having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of the first card.

30. (New) A card connector according to claim 27, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said guide grooves is formed with a recess having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of said first card and receding in the height direction.